

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEDWELLTY

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1946

BLACKWOOD:

J. E. ROBERTS, SIRHOWY VALLEY PRESS.

Bedwellty Urban District Council

1946-1947

Chairman : Councillor G. H. Hodges, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor D. Davies

Members :

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,, W. B. Morris
,, Jonathan Roberts
,, D. Samuel
,, John Thomas
,, G. M. Harries
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,, E. R. Edwards
,, F. O. Sainsbury
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Councillor Denys Roach
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,, Lewis Lewis
,, Lanagan
,, W. H. Alderman
,, A. G. Parfitt
Alderman J. J. Panes, O.B.E.
,, Evan Thomas, J.P.

Clerk to the Council : D. Hilton Lewis, Esq.

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,, Lewis Lewis (vice-chair)
,, R. Lanagan
,, E. R. Edwards
,, G. H. Hodges, J.P.
,, David Davies
,, D. J. Samuel

Councillor W. B. Morris
,, John Thomas
,, Denys Roach
,, F. O Sainsbury
Alderman E. Thomas, J.P.
,, J. J. Panes, O.B.E.

Health Department Staff

*Medical Officer of Health (*part time) S. R. Macmillan, M.B.
Chief Sanitary Inspector ... Dan Powell, M.B.E., M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A. (Qualified Meat & Food Inspector)
Sanitary Inspector Arthur M. Coleman, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Qualified Meat & Food Inspector)
Shops and General Inspector ... Dan Thomas
Rodent Operator Sidney Parker
Public Ambulance Driver ... Elias Jones
Public Ambulance Driver (spare) Thomas Williams
Fever Ambulance Driver ... James Norris
Junior Clerk W. Rice-Jones

Isolation Hospital Staff

Medical Superintendent (part time) S. R. Macmillan, M.B.
Matron A. M. Valder, S.R.N.
Staff Nurses A. G. Stephens (Fever Certificate)
Assistant Nurse M. Carter, S.E.A.N
Probationer Nurses E. Price, G. A. Jones
Caretaker J. Norris

Summary of Statistics for 1946

Area of the District in Acres	7,355
Population at Census (1921)	31,088
Population at Census (1931)	30,074
Estimated Population for Births and Deaths Rates ...	28,230
Number of Inhabited Houses	6,089
Number of Persons per house	4.6
Rateable Value	£96,437
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£330
Number of Births	703
Nett Birth Rate	25.1
Number of Illegitimate Births	38
Number of Deaths of Residents	300
Nett Death Rate	10.7
Number of Deaths under one year	32
Of these there were Illegitimate	0
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births	45.5
Number of Women dying from Child-birth (Sepsis and other causes)	1
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis ...	24
,, ,, ,, Influenza ...	2
,, ,, ,, Bronchitis ...	21
,, ,, ,, Pneumonia ...	10
,, ,, ,, Measles ...	0
,, ,, ,, Circulatory Diseases	94
,, ,, ,, Cancer ...	10
,, ,, ,, Industrial Disease	8

Year	Births	Deaths
1943 ...	668 ...	308
1944 ...	693 ...	288
1945 ...	636 ...	323
1946 ...	703 ...	300

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
ABERBARGOED, MON.
24th July, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my **ANNUAL REPORT for the year ending 31st December, 1946.** It is made in accordance with the Memorandum of the Welsh Board of Health.

General Information

The area of the District is 7,355 acres and is Industrial and Rural in character.

Population—The population estimated by the Registrar General for Mid-year 1946 was 28,230 for calculation of birth rates and death rates.

The estimated population for 1945 was 28,050.

Dwelling Houses—32 new houses (pre-fabs.) were occupied during the year and many more, both temporary and permanent houses, were in course of erection. The total number of occupied houses in the area on December 31st was 6,089, giving an average of 4.6 persons per house.

Rateable Value—The Rateable Value of the area on March 31st, 1947, was £96 437; the sum represented by a penny rate was £333; and the rate for the financial year was 26s. 9d. in the £.

When reviewing the progress made during 1946 in this Urban District, especially in regard to providing work for the unemployed and the partially disabled persons, one reaches the conclusion that very little has been accomplished.

It is rather a depressing sight to see these people standing or walking aimlessly about the streets when they could be usefully employed in some form of remunerative work. A few have been or are being trained for other types of occupation outside the collieries, but there is still a large number of partially disabled men for whose employment light industries are urgently needed.

So far, only one small factory at Pengam has started production during the year and most of the people employed there are women.

Despite nationalisation of the collieries and the introduction of the 5-day week, coal mining is not attracting the number of young persons expected, especially those with secondary school educations. This latter group prefer to seek their livelihood in more congenial spheres and incentives other than higher wages and shorter hours are necessary if young people are to be attracted to coal-mining as a calling.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS: Births registered during the year in the area were:

	Males	Females
Legitimate	340	325
Illegitimate	16	32
Total	356	347

Live birth rate per 1,000 population 27.90
Percentage of illegitimate to legitimate births ... 7%
Still births 5.7%
Still birth rate per 1,000 population 1.03
Percentage of illegitimate to legitimate still births 3%

The births for previous years may be compared:

1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
703	636	693	668	587	658

The birth rate at 24.90 per 1,000 population is the highest it has been for many years and is markedly higher than that of England and Wales and the County of Monmouth, which are 19.1 and 19.9 per 1,000 population respectively.

The still birth rate, however, remains high, being 1.03 per 1,000 of population and compares unfavourably with England and Wales at 0.53 per 1,000 population and the County of Monmouth at 0.64 per 1,000 population.

The percentage of still births to live births still shows a marked increase in this Urban District (see Table).

B.U.D.C.	England & Wales	Cty. of Monmouth
4.13	2.77	3.21

Births during 1946

Month	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Totals
January ...	30	28			
February ...	31	23	93	72	165
March ...	32	21			
April ...	33	35			
May ...	39	30	108	93	201
June ...	36	28			
July ...	25	36			
August ...	29	32	83	94	177
September ...	29	26			
October ...	20	29			
November ...	25	33	72	88	160
December ...	27	26			
Totals ...	356	347	356	347	703

DEATHS: The number of deaths registered in this area during the year 1946 was 227.

The death rate after correction for inward and outward transfers was 300.

The death rate for previous years may be compared:

1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
10.7	11.5	10.15	11.1	13.40	12.13

Monthly Deaths of Males and Females

Month	Males	Females	Totals
January	... 17	11	28
February	... 16	10	26
March	... 19	12	31
April	... 14	15	29
May	... 14	10	24
June	... 10	12	22
July	... 9	8	17
August	... 10	9	19
September	... 16	9	25
October	... 16	9	25
November	... 10	9	19
December	... 19	16	35
Totals	... 170	130	300

The death rate at 10.7 per 1,000 population is the second lowest ever recorded in this Urban District, that of 1944 being lower (see table above). The death rate for England and Wales is 11.5 per 1,000 civilian population and that of the County of Monmouth 11.7. Considering this is an industrial area with marked overcrowding in certain areas, the fall is very satisfactory.

The principal causes of death are:

Circulatory Diseases.—This group again is the most common cause of death. Of the 300 deaths recorded, 94, or roughly one third, were due to circulatory diseases. The majority of deaths, however, occur in the later age groups; one third being over the age of 75 years and two thirds over 65 years. From 0—45 years there were 8 deaths, 2 in the age group 1—2 years and 2 in the age group 10—15 years.

Respiratory Diseases.—The number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system was 43. These again occur in the later age groups, roughly 50% occurring in persons 75 years and over, 75% in people 60 years and over.

Tuberculosis.—The number of deaths is 24; 20 dying from pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 from non-pulmonary. 13 of the 20 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were in the age group 15—35 years, and 6 deaths occurred between 15—25 years. Of the four non-pulmonary deaths, two died under 15 years. During the year, however, there were fewer notifications than in 1945, being 38 in 1946 compared with 42 in 1945 for pulmonary tuberculosis and 13 in 1946 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis compared with 22 in 1945. Of the latter group, most of the persons were suffering from disease of the Cervical glands.

The increase in the incidence of tuberculosis which occurred during the war years has now probably reached its peak and with improved conditions one may expect the disease to resume its downward trend so noticeable in pre-war years.

Cancer.—40 deaths were recorded during the year. This is a marked increase and is nearly double that of 1943. It is now the third highest cause of mortality, rapidly approaching that of diseases of the respiratory system. Most of the deaths are in the later age groups, but it is a disquieting fact that five deaths were recorded in persons between 35—45 years. It would appear that this disease is now attacking younger people than it did in former years.

Silicosis and Pneumoconiosis.—Deaths from these diseases show a slight decrease from 1945 but it is still higher than 1943 when there were three deaths. The number of persons certified as suffering from these diseases, however, is on the increase, but most of these are getting out of the pits before they have reached an advanced stage.

Year		Respiratory System	Circulatory System	Tuberculosis	Cancer
1943	...	39	119	21	21
1944	...	38	103	17	25
1945	...	48	99	25	35
1946	...	43	94	24	40

Infantile Mortality

The deaths under one year were 32, giving an infantile mortality rate of 45.5 per 1,000 births registered.

In 1943 the rate was 41.8 per 1,000 births.
In 1944 ,, ,, 60.6 ,, ,,
In 1945 ,, ,, 48.6 ,, ,,
In 1946 ,, ,, 45.5 ,, ,,

Deaths of Infants under 1 year during 1946

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks—3 m'ths	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Totals
Marasmus ...	1	1	–	–	2	1	–	–	5
Diarrhœa ...	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
Measles ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
Prematurity ...	5	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	6
Whooping Cough .	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
Pneumonia ...	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	3
Bronchitis ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
Convulsions ...	2	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	5
Other Causes ...	3	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	5
Cong. Debility ...	3	–	–	–	1	2	–	–	6
Totals ...	15	2	–	2	5	6	1	1	32

The infantile mortality rate at 45.5 per 1,000 births is the second lowest ever recorded in this Urban District, that of 1943 being lower. Although it is still higher than that of England and Wales (being 43 per 1,000 live births) it is lower than the County of Monmouth at 47.6 per 1,000 live births, and during the past 20 years it has been halved.

Many of these deaths are inevitable, but a certain proportion of them are preventable.

The most dangerous period is the first week. From the above table it will be noted that 15 of the 32 deaths, or roughly one half, are in this group, the causes of death being prematurity, convulsions, congenital debility, etc.

There is no doubt that some of these babies could be saved if there were proper institutions—equipped for such skilled work, and staffed by experienced nurses—where they could be removed if the home conditions were unsuitable or prejudicial to their well-being. There has been, in recent years, a marked falling off in breast feeding and mothers with premature or weakly children ought to be encouraged to feed their infants themselves as no modification of cows' milk can equal the human.

On the whole, however, the present-day mother is taking a greater interest in her baby than formerly, the majority attending the post-natal clinics and most of the credit for the fall in the death rate is due to her care and devotion.

Deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis were 3, while in 1945 8 deaths were due to these causes. Since the introduction of the sulpha drugs there has been a marked fall in the mortality from diseases of the respiratory system.

Infantile diarrhœa was responsible for 2 deaths.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age in 1946

Under one week	15
One week to two weeks	2
Two weeks to three weeks	0
Three weeks to four weeks	2
Total under one month	17
One month to three months	5
Three months to six months	6
Six months to nine months	1
Nine months to twelve months	1
Total under one year	32

Comparison of Infantile Mortality

Bedwellty U.D.C. ...	45.5 per 1,000 births
County of Monmouth .	47.6 ,, ,,
England and Wales ...	43.0 ,, ,,

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases

Scarlet Fever	0
Diphtheria	0
Whooping Cough	1
Measles	0
	1

Maternal Mortality

	Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	—	1.37	1.37
County of Monmouth	0.16	2.03	3.19

Maternal Mortality.—The maternal mortality rate of 1.37 per 1,000 total births is very satisfactory. The comparative figure for the County of Monmouth is 3.19. There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis—in fact no cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year. This is a highly satisfactory position and reflects great credit on the midwives who do most of the confinements in this district. The hospitalisation of complicated pregnancies and the supervision of the expectant mother by the midwives and at the ante-natal clinic have also contributed to this result.

The one death was in hospital following complication of labour.

Zymotic Diseases

1946 was a good year for infectious diseases, there being no major epidemics of any kind.

Influenza.—Most of the cases were very mild and the two deaths were in elderly people.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty-seven cases were notified during the year with no deaths. The disease is still of a very mild type producing little constitutional disturbance and few complications. All the cases were kept at home except those whose home conditions were unsuitable for isolating them, when they were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria.—Four cases were notified during the year with no deaths. All the cases were in children who had not been immunised. This is the lowest number notified during the past 20 years and can be attributed to immunisation. There are, however, some parents who refuse to have their children immunised, despite the advice given them. This apathy is difficult to understand, as they immediately get their other children immunised should one of them contract diphtheria.

Pneumonia.—13 cases were notified, with 10 deaths. 3 of these were under 1 year, and 4 were over 65 years.

There were no deaths between 1—15 years when most of the cases were notified. The disparity between the notifications and the number of deaths shows that the majority of pneumonias were not notified. For instance, no notifications were received under 1 year, yet there were three deaths and only one notification was received for the age group 65 years and over where there were four deaths.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—Three cases were notified during the year with one death, that of a man who died shortly after admission to hospital.

Measles.—Only four cases were notified compared with 655 in 1945.

Whooping Cough.—This disease, also, was less prevalent in 1946—19 cases being notified against 47 in 1945. One death was recorded.

With the number of cases of Diphtheria so small and Scarlet Fever of such a mild type, the time is opportune when one should review the cases being admitted to hospital.

A severe epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough can be expected in the near future and should there be beds available, severe complicated cases of these diseases ought to be admitted, if the home conditions are unsuitable for their proper nursing. Notification, which was instituted during the war years and is still in operation, ought to be continued in peace time so that one can compare the mortality rate and assess the results of modern methods of treatment.

Erysipelas.—Four cases were notified with no deaths and all the cases were treated at home.

Causes of Death at all ages, 1946

CAUSE OF DEATH	Totals	AGE GROUPS													
		Under 1 yr	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—75	75 yrs. and over
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	3	2	1	1	—
Tuberculosis—Non-respiratory	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Influenza	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer—œsoph and uterus ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1
Cancer—stomach	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	3
Cancer—breast	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Cancer—other sites	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	5	6	6
Diabetes	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Intercranial Vascular Les. ...	32	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	8	8	13
Heart Disease	59	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	8	11	15	20
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Bronchitis	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	10
Pneumonia	10	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	7
Ulcer of Stomach	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Disease ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—
Nephritis	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3
Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Con. Mal. Birth	18	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accident	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Other Violent Causes	9	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	1	—	1
Other Causes	38	5	—	1	—	—	—	4	2	5	1	5	4	4	7
Totals ...	300	32	6	2	1	1	—	7	6	26	16	25	45	59	74

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases According to Age Groups

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED. Age Groups													DEATHS. Age Groups												
	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	2	2	3	15	5	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	2	2	1	3	—	1	2	—	1	1	13	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	4	10
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enceph. Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .	—	1	5	5	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	2	11	9	7	29	7	1	4	0	2	2	77	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	4	12

Notification of Infectious Diseases in Registration Wards and in Quarters during 1946

Notifiable Disease	Totals	Ward									Quarters			
		Phillipstown	New Tredegar	Aberbargoed	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Blackwood	Argoed	Markham	Hollybush Manmoel	1	2	3	4
Diphtheria	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	3	1	—
Scarlet Fever	27	—	6	4	3	7	6	1	—	—	8	9	4	6
Pneumonia	13	—	10	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	1	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	38	5	5	10	7	3	4	2	2	—	9	12	9	8
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	13	—	—	—	3	5	—	2	3	—	2	3	4	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	19	—	8	9	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	3	7	6
C.S.M.	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
Measles	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1
Totals ...	128	6	35	25	15	19	14	7	6	1	34	35	29	30

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality

The following table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease during 1946:—

Age Period in Years	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0—1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
1—5	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	2	1	3	2	3	5	—	—	—	1	—	1
15—25	8	9	17	2	1	3	3	3	6	—	—	—
25—35	3	5	8	1	1	2	4	3	7	1	—	1
35—45	2	3	5	—	1	1	2	1	3	1	—	1
45—55	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	19	19	38	7	6	13	11	9	20	4	—	4

Occupational Incidence of Tuberculosis

Male Cases	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Miner	6	—	6
H.M. Forces	7	—	7
Prisoner	—	1	1
Schoolboy	2	3	5
Unemployed	1	—	1
Factory Worker	1	—	1
Electrician	—	1	1
Relieving Officer	1	1	2
Fitter	—	1	1
Boy under school age	1	—	1
Female Cases			
Factory Worker	2	—	2
Housewife	8	1	9
Shop Assistant	2	—	2
Domestic Servant	2	1	3
Nurse	2	1	3
Canteen Worker	1	—	1
Schoolgirl	1	3	4
Office Worker	1	—	1

Monthly Incidence of Notification of Tuberculosis

Month	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
January	3	1	4
February	4	1	5
March	2	—	2
April	6	—	6
May	4	1	5
June	2	2	4
July	3	2	5
August	4	—	4
September	2	2	4
October	2	1	3
November	3	3	6
December	3	—	3
Totals	38	13	51

Sanatorium Treatment of Tuberculosis, 1946

SANATORIUM	PULMONARY CASES		NON-PULMONARY CASES	
	Admission	Discharge	Admission	Discharge
Adelina Patti Hosp. Swansea	1	1	—	—
Cefn Mably Hospital ...	8	5	—	—
Glan Ely Hospital ...	1	—	8	8
Sully Hospital	5	5	—	—
Highland Moors Hospital	1	1	—	—
North Wales Sanatorium	6	5	—	—
South Wales Sanatorium	3	6	—	—
Morrison Em'g'cy Hosp.	—	1	—	—
Penarth Isolation Hosp.	1	1	—	—
Memorial Annexe, Chepstow	2	2	—	—
Energlyn Hospital ...	3	6	—	—
Gelligaer Isolation Hosp.	2	—	—	—
Mardy Hospital	1	2	—	—
City Lodge, Cardiff ...	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	35	35	8	8

HOSPITAL PROVISION

(*a*) *Fever.*—There is accommodation for 36 patients at the Council's Isolation Hospital at Coedymoeth Common, Markham. The list of the Staff will be found at the commencement of this Report.

Bedwellty Area Patients, 1946

Ward	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Other Diseases	Totals
Phillipstown ...	—	—	—	—	—
New Tredegar ...	—	1	—	—	1
Aberbargoed ...	2	—	1	—	3
Pengam ...	2	1	—	1	4
Cefn Fforest ...	4	3	1	—	8
Markham ...	—	—	—	—	—
Blackwood ...	—	—	—	1	1
Argoed ...	3	—	1	—	4
Hollybush ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	11	5	3	2	21

Outside Area Patients, 1946

Area	Poliomyelitis	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	C.S.F.	Scarlet Fever	T.B. Meningitis	Erysipelas	Para-Typhoid	Other Diseases	Totals
Abergavenny U.D.C. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Bedwas & Machen U.D.C.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rhymney U.D.C. ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Ebbw Vale U.D.C. ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3
Risca U.D.C.	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Blaenavon U.D.C. ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Pontypool U.D.C. ...	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	6
Abercarn U.D.C. ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Abertillery U.D.C. ...	—	9	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	12
Mynyddislwyn U.D.C. ...	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Brynmawr U.D.C. ...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	5
Blaina & Nantyglo U.D.C.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Usk R.D.C.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cwmbran U.D.C. ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	3	35	1	3	3	2	1	5	4	57

The number of patients admitted each year to the Isolation Hospital during the last six years, were as follows:

1941	...	229 patients	...	8 deaths	
1942	...	134 ,,	...	4	,,
1943	...	110 ,,	...	9	,,
1944	...	59 ,,	...	6	,,
1945	...	70 ,,	...	7	,,
1946	...	78 ,,	...	8	,,

Of the eight deaths at the Isolation Hospital, two were from the Bedwellty area, one dying from Cerebro-Spinal Fever and the other a Tubercular Meningitis sent in as a Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

The six deaths from outside area patients included four deaths from Diphtheria, viz:

1 from Rhymney U.D.C.
1 from Risca U.D.C.
1 from Brynmawr U.D.C.
1 from Abertillery U.D.C.

The remaining two deaths were not from Infectious Diseases, one being a Chronic Nephritis from Blaenavon U.D.C. and one Tubercular Meningitis from Abertillery U.D.C.

(*b*) *General.*—The only General Hospital in the area is the Powell Duffryn Co's. Workmen's Hospital, Aberbargoed, and this institution is confined practically to workmen and their dependants. Facilities are provided for surgical operations and X-Ray.

(*c*) *Maternity.*—Limited accommodation is available at the County Infirmary, Tredegar, and expectant mothers to Llanfrechfra Grange and Lydia Beynon Maternity Home. These institutions are under the control of the County Council. There are no Hospitals in the area.

(*d*) *Hospitals for Children.*—There are no hospital beds for children in the area. There is no provision made for unmarried mothers or illegitimate children.

(*e*) *Tuberculosis.*—There are no Sanitoria or Tuberculosis Hospitals in the area. Cases are cared for by the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association.

(*f*) *Small Pox.*—In the event of cases of this disease occurring, facilities have been made by the County Council.

There is no Small Pox Hospital in the area.

(*g*) *Sick Bay for Skin Diseases.*—There is no Sick Bay in the area. Cases from the area were admitted to the Sick Bay, Ebbw Vale.

Midwives

Midwives are supervised and controlled by the Monmouthshire County Council. There are 12 Midwives practising in the area.

Nursing in the Home

There are no arrangements made by the Local Authority for nursing general and infectious diseases at house. The Council contributes a sum of money each year to the Nursing Associations established in the area. There are district nurses in each Ward, fully qualified, and carry out home nursing in an efficient manner.

Maternity and Child Welfare and Treatment Centres

(*a*) *Venereal Diseases.*—No clinic in the area. Patients attend clinics at Royal Gwent Hospital and Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

(*b*) *Tuberculosis Clinics.*—No clinic in the area. Patients living in the Rhymney Valley attend at Caerphilly and patients in Sirhowy Valley at Pontllanfraith.

(*c*) *Ante-Natal Clinics*—

(1) New Tredegar: Wesleyan Schoolroom.
(2) Pengam: Vine House.
(3) Aberbargoed: Methodist Chapel Schoolroom
(4) Blackwood: Church Hall.
(5) Markham: 46 Abernant Road.

(*d*) *School Clinics.*—

Vine House, Pengam: Teeth and Vision and Orthopædic.

The Ante-Natal and School Clinics are under the control of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

Infectious Diseases.—Infectious cases are removed to and from the Isolation Hospital in the Council's "Austin" Motor Ambulance. The ambulance has also been used for conveying patients for Abertillery, Blaenavon, Crickhowell, Pontypool, Mynyddislwyn and other areas. The ambulance is garaged at the Hospital.

Number of trips 156

Accident and Maternity Cases.—The Council have two motor ambulances: (1) Austin (2) Albion. No. 2 is being used as a second emergency ambulance. The County Council have also loaned an ambulance to the Council, and same has proved most useful when the other ambulances have been in for repairs.

The ambulances are under the control of the Health Department, Tel. Nos.: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Bargoed 226; after 5 p.m., Bargoed 32. A working arrangement exists between this Council and Gelligaer Council for use of the ambulances.

Ambulance Cases conveyed to and from each Ward

	No. of Cases		No. of Cases
New Tredegar ...	288	Blackwood	110
Aberbargoed ...	222	Markham	47
Pengam	152	Argoed	30
Cefn Fforest	130	Hollybush	18
	Total ... 997		

Total Number of Journeys for Year ending 31/12/46—
Case Numbers 7504—8501 inclusive

	No. of Journeys		No. of Journeys
Cardiff Royal Infirmary	389	The Clinic, Pengam	3
Royal Gwent Hospital	317	Merthyr General Hospital ...	1
Ty Bryn, Tredegar	44	Whitchurch Hospital	8
County Hospital, Panteg	75	Abergavenny Mental Hospital ...	1
Tredegar Workmen's Hospital ...	11	Aberbargoed P.D. Hospital ...	8
Oakdale Hospital	12	Caerphilly T.B. Clinic	3
Snatchwood Hospital, Pontypool	3	Glan Ely Hospital	2
The Clinic, Pontllanfraith ...	29	Ebbw Vale Sick Bay	10
Llanfrechfa Grange Maternity Home	29	Hill Croft, Panteg	2
St. Mellons, Cardiff	16	Gold Tops Clinic, Newport ...	2
Prince of Wales, Cardiff	5	Tydfil Lodge, Merthyr Tydvil ...	1
Glossop Terrace, Cardiff	3	Rhumatic Hospital, Bath ...	3
The Clinic, Newport	15	Abertysswg Hospital	1
Monmouth County Hospital ...	1	Pontypool and District	2
Llwynypia Hospital	1	Porth Hospital	1
Tredegar Maternity Home ...	5	Houses, Streets, etc.	15
Lydia Beynon Maternity Home...	7		

An average removal of 19 patients per week. Mileage: approx. 27,000 miles.

Ambulance Boxes

Ambulance boxes have been provided by the Council in every Ward throughout the area.

The St. John Ambulance Association maintain these boxes.

Laboratory Facilities

This work is carried out, free of charge, by the County Pathologist (Dr. W. Panes) at the County Laboratory, Newport.

Schools

All schools in the area are visited from time to time by the Inspector. The Rodent Officer also calls at the schools and when necessary (on the instruction of the County Architect, Mr. Colin Jones baits the premises.

Water Supply

The water supply in the area is of a good quality. Samples are regularly taken and results show that the supplies are not contaminated in any way.

Pithead Baths and Canteens

As stated in my previous Report, there are five Canteens in the area, with three Pithead Baths. The Canteens are visited by the Inspectors of the Health Department.

Swimming Pools

There are no Swimming Pools in the area, the two nearest being at Pontllanfraith and Bargoed.

Drainage and Sewerage

As stated in my previous Report, practically the whole of the district is provided with stoneware subsidiary sewers which are connected to trunk sewers which have sea outfall.

The Council are a constitutent member of the Western Valley Sewerage Board and the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board.

Rivers and Streams

A large amount of pollution is taking place in both Valleys, by washings from Collieries. House refuse is also being dumped by some householders. The banks of the rivers throughout the area are baited regularly by the Rodent Officer in conjunction with Rodent Officers of adjoining Local Authorities.

Closet Accommodation

The water carriage system is almost universal throughout the area.

Rainfall

I am obliged to the Surveyor (Mr. D. H. Price) for the following particulars: the rainfall during 1946 was 65.49 inches as compared with 54.18 inches in 1945. The wettest month was November, with 11.34 inches, and the driest month was October, with 1.58 inches.

Public Cleansing and Scavenging

The scavenging, daily collection, is carried out under the direct control of the Surveyor (Mr. D. H. Price).

Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room

The Mortuary and Post Mortem Room, which is under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, was used quite a lot during the year. It has proved to be a useful and necessary institution. I beg to suggest that the Council consider lining the walls to at least four feet six inches high with glazed tiles.

Camping Sites

There are no camping sites in the area.

Shops

The shops in the area are of a fairly high standard and the owners and occupiers are generally ready to comply with any request for the promotion of hygiene.

During the year 42 visits were made by the Staff.

Summary Proceedings

Summary proceedings under the various Acts, Orders and Regulations were instituted by the Chief Sanitary Inspector through the Clerk to the Council, during the year.

In conclusion, it is desired to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the interest shown in matters affecting Public Health and to express my appreciation of the generous co-operation of the whole of the Public Health Staff during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

S. R. MACMILLAN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed, Glam.
24th July, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I have much pleasure in submitting my **ANNUAL REPORT**, on the work done in the Department, **for the Year ending 31st December, 1946.**

Notices Served

Intimation Notices	207
Abatement Notices	132
Water Notices	17
Cleansing Notices	16
Total ...	372

Housing Act, 1936

The number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the above Act was 233. During the inspections, cases of overcrowding were discovered.

Tuberculosis

There were 51 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and an inspection was made in each case of the accommodation, etc., also particulars of the patient. Records are also kept of admissions and discharges from Sanatoria.

Council Houses

Number of houses inspected for cleanliness, state of gardens, etc.	729
Prospective tenants visited and reports submitted to the Accountant	80
Empty houses inspected	20
Empty houses disinfested for bed bugs ...	0

The inspection of Council Houses was completed during the year and brought to notice numerous cases of more than one family occupying the house. Many of these cases were caused by the sons and daughters, after marriage, remaining with the parents.

Infectious Diseases

Number of cases of infectious diseases notified	128
Number of patients removed to Isolation Hospital	21
Number of houses disinfected after infectious disease ...	45

Investigations are carried out in all cases of infectious diseases notified. The time spent in investigation helps to keep infection to a minimum. The houses and home surroundings of the patient are thoroughly examined and if the house requires repairs notice is served on the owner. Where cases cannot be properly isolated at home these are removed to your Isolation Hospital and the home and all infected bedding and clothing disinfected. We interviewed several members of the Merchant Navy, and Armed Forces who were Small Pox Contacts. I am pleased to report that no case of Small Pox was notified during the year.

Isolation Hospital

The Isolation Hospital at Coedymoeth Common was in constant use throughout the year with patients from the Bedwellty Area, also patients from adjoining areas.

Number of patients from the Bedwellty area	21
Number of patients from other Authorities ...	57
Total ...	78

Common Lodging Houses

There is only one Common Lodging House used as such in the area. This place is rarely used to its full capacity. It is known as "Bowen's Workingmen's Home. High Street, Blackwood." Regular inspections have been made and reports satisfactory. One Notice was served re drains nuisance.

Factories Act, 1937

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Factories with mechanical power	24
Factories without mechanical power	36
Total ...	60

Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922. Milk and Dairies Order, 1926

Number of cowsheds on register	50
Number of retail purveyors on register ...	54
Inspections of cowsheds	72
Inspections of milkshops	42
Notices to limewash	6
Notices complied with	6

Milk Samples

Forty-one samples of milk were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and for the detection of tuberculosis. 24 samples were not up to standard and the vendors' attention was immediately called to its unsatisfactory condition. It is the practice of the Council that if two successive samples are unsatisfactory the vendor is instructed to appear before the Public Health Committee to show cause why he shall not be removed from the Register of Retailers. It was necessary, during the year, for three vendors to appear before the Committee.

National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme

Numerous samples of milk were taken by the County Farm Advisory Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for examination by the Reazurin Test—Keeping quality of milk.

Water Supplies

Inspections were made of houses in various parts of the area which were without sufficient water supply. 17 notices were served on the owners to provide an adequate supply. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining materials to carry out the work.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The number immunised by the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. S. R. Macmillan) and Staff during the year was 11.

Number immunised by County Council Staff, 602.

The number immunised in the Bedwellty area since the commencement of the Immunisation campaign: 7,050.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act

Under my supervision, Mr. S. Parker (Rodent Operator) and a staff of part-time workmen have baited all the sewers in the area during the year. Work has also been carried out at the request of owners, and the Accountant has submitted accounts for same.

All Council property has also been baited. The Pengam Refuse Tip was treated for crickets during the year, with good results.

Rat and Mice Survey, 1946—Particulars of Initial Treatment. Summary of Properties treated including Private Dwellings, Shops, Council Property and Other Property

A complete survey of all properties in the area was made during the year. Below are particulars of premises discovered infested with rats and mice.

Ward	No. of Infestations			Poisons Used			Total No. Points Treated	Traps	Pre-bait used		
	Rats	Mice	Total	Zinc Phos.	Red Squill	Proprietory Biscuits			Rusks	Bread	Other Types
New Tredegar	47	146	193	106	9	19	347	30	—	—	—
Aberbargoed	53	178	231	120	15	19	382	59	9	—	22
Pengam	96	105	201	86	52	6	357	40	10	1	52
Coed Fforest	20	12	32	17	3	—	59	4	—	—	—
Blackwood	75	106	181	59	9	1	208	13	20	—	—
Argoed	56	29	85	45	4	—	120	12	2	2	26
Markham	4	7	11	7	2	2	46	1	1	—	—
Hollybush	23	5	28	5	2	1	19	12	—	—	—
Totals ..	374	588	962	445	96	48	1538	171	42	3	100

Thanks are due for the co-operation and advice of Mr. J. Cunningham (Infestation Officer of the Ministry of Food).

Cinemas

All Cinemas in the area were inspected during the year. No complaints. Thanks are due to the Police for their close co-operation with the department in the supervision of these places.

Public Health—Meat Regulations

Number of notices received of intended slaughter:—

(*a*) For regular slaughter nil

The meat for this area is slaughtered at
Maesycwmmer Slaughterhouse
Tredegar Slaughterhouse

(*b*) From cottagers and farmers (pig killing) 243

The Food Executive Officer (W. D. R. Lewis, Esq.) granted licences to farmers and cottagers exempting them from the provisions of the Livestock (Registration of Slaughtering) Order. All applications were countersigned by me.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

The following articles were condemned as unfit for human consumption. All foods capable of being salvaged and re-used were returned to the sender on the instruction of the Ministry of Food.

132 packets pudding mixture	3 packets flakes
83 packets custard powder	80 lbs. cheese
28 lbs. peas	260 lbs. oats
324 lbs beef	80 lbs. dates
23½ lbs. ham	152 lbs. bacon
150 eggs	328 lbs. flour
290 lbs. butter	8 lbs. jam
86 pots paste	10¼ lbs. margarine
30¾ lbs. sultanas	75 packets mustard
10¾ lbs. mutton	78 lbs. prunes
24 lbs. bread	58 lbs. tinned brisket beef
24 lbs. tongue	2½ lbs. luncheon meat
2 tins meat roll	5 lbs. tea
720 tins of other foods	

Approximate weight—1 ton, 5cwt., 30 lbs.

Food Shops

The number of Food Shops dealing in rationed food is shown in the following table:

District	Grocers	Bakers	Butchers	Green-grocers	Fish Friers	Catering Estab'm'ts	Total
New Tredegar ...	34	6	4	14	6	3	67
Aberbargoed ...	18	3	2	3	3	2	31
Pengam ...	7	2	—	—	—	—	9
Fleur-de-Lis ...	14	1	2	3	2	1	23
Cefn Fforest ...	14	1	2	3	2	1	23
Blackwood ...	32	5	8	6	5	7	63
Argoed ...	6	2	1	1	—	—	10
Markham ...	6	—	2	—	1	1	10
Hollybush ...	3	—	1	1	—	—	5
Totals ...	134	20	22	31	19	15	241

Shops Acts, 1912—1936 (Early Closing)

The work was caried out satisfactorily during the year by the Inspectors. No legal proceedings were taken.

Number of Shops and Shop Assistants in the Bedwellty Urban District:

District	Lock-up Shops	Dwelling House and Shops	Sheds	Market Stalls	Total Business Premises	Shop Assistants: Over 18 years	Shop Assistants: Under 18 years	Shop Assistants: Total
New Tredegar ...	67	46	—	—	113	35	73	108
Aberbargoed ...	31	9	1	—	41	40	11	51
Pengam & Fleur-de-Lis	30	9	1	—	40	14	20	34
Cefn Fforest ...	15	15	1	—	31	12	3	15
Blackwood ...	110	17	4	5	136	267	129	396
Argoed ...	9	3	4	—	16	4	7	11
Markham ...	8	—	3	—	11	8	6	14
Hollybush ...	3	2	—	—	5	2	1	1
Totals ...	273	101	14	5	393	282	250	632

Public Mortuary and Post Mortem Room

Number of autopsies conducted during the year ... 21
These premises are under my supervision.

Requisitioned Properties

Below is a list of properties used by persons who were improperly housed:

1. Tredegar Chambers, Blackwood.
2. Tredegar Arms Hotel, Fleur-de-Lis.
3. 24 Commercial Street, Aberbargoed.
4. Lloyds Bank, New Tredegar.

Police Court Proceedings

Proceedings were taken against 24 owners of properties to comply with Statutory Notices for repairs. Orders were made in a few cases, but the majority of cases were adjourned to give the owners time to comply. Materials were difficult to obtain, and many owners took advantage of this position. All this increased the difficulties of our work.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Council and Members of the Staff for their valuable assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

DAN POWELL
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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